Serial No.: 10/711,894 Confirmation No.: 5893

Attorney Docket No.: 8002.002.NPUS00

Remarks:

In the Final Office Action, claims 5, 24, and 30 (as well as others) were objected to as depending from rejected base claims but were otherwise indicated to be directed to allowable subject matter. The present amendment incorporates the features recited in those claims into independent claims 1, 24, and 30, respectively. Therefore, all claims should be in condition for allowance, and timely Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

The undersigned representative requests any extension of time that may be deemed necessary to further the prosecution of this application.

The undersigned representative authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 or 1.17 that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 14-1437, referencing Attorney Docket No.: 8002.002.NPUS00.

In order to facilitate the resolution of any issues or questions presented by this paper, the Examiner may directly contact the undersigned by phone to further the discussion.

Novak, Druce & Quigg, LLP 1000 Louisiana, Suite 5300 Houston, Texas 77002 (713) 571-3400 (713) 456-2836 (fax) tracy.druce@novakdruce.com Respectfully submitted,

/Kenneth M. Fagin/

Kenneth M. Fagin, Esq. Reg. No. 37,615 (202) 204-4662 ken fagin@novakdruce.com